



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - January 31, 2002**

- ***In the West***, the need for freeze-protection measures returned to ***California's San Joaquin Valley citrus areas*** last night, where low temperatures generally ranged from the middle 20's to near 30 degrees F. Cool, mostly dry weather also prevails elsewhere in the ***West***.
- ***On the Plains***, beneficial snowfall is blanketing winter wheat across much of ***Kansas and Nebraska***. However, very dry conditions persist from ***western Nebraska northward into Montana***, although bitterly cold conditions are easing.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, sharply contrasting weather prevails, ranging from cold weather across ***northwestern areas*** to thunderstorms in the ***Ohio Valley***. Areas between are experiencing a variety of precipitation (snow, freezing rain, or rain), which is boosting soil moisture reserves but stressing livestock and disrupting travel.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers and thunderstorms are sweeping across areas from the ***Delta westward***, where some winter grain fields remain unfavorably wet. Meanwhile, record warmth continues to promote pasture and winter wheat development in the ***Southeast***, following recent drought-easing rainfall.

**Outlook:** A significant winter storm will continue to affect areas from the ***central Plains into the Northeast***, followed by a return of dry weather nearly nationwide during the weekend. Cold weather is forecast to gradually ease across much of the U.S. during the next several days. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for February 5-9 calls for the return of near- to above-normal temperatures nationwide. Continuing a winter-long trend, the most unusual warmth is expected across the ***Midwest***. Generally light (near- to below-normal) precipitation is forecast across most of the U.S., with heavier amounts confined to the ***Southeast*** and the ***Pacific Northwest***.

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